



Just Passing Through

Beginning students are introduced to the basic concepts of how water passes through soil in an activity which illustrates the scientific method. More advanced students investigate the effects of soil characteristics on water infiltration and the chemistry of water that has passed through soil.

From Mud Pies to Bricks

Introduces the various particle sizes found in soils and the properties which each contributes to the soil character.

Soil and My Backyard

Students collect, describe and compare soils from their own backyards.

A Field View of Soil and Soil Moisture - Digging Around

Students discover that soil properties such as moisture and temperature can vary considerably across a single landscape.

Soils as Sponges: How Much Water Does Soil Hold?

Students explore soil moisture by weighing and drying sponges and then they explore their soil samples in the same way.

Soil: The Great Decomposer

Students simulate environmental conditions in order to determine which are the key factors in the decomposition of organic material in soil.

Making Sense of the Particle Size Distribution Measurements

Students use the data from the this protocol to determine the texture of soil horizons.

The Data Game

Teams of students play a game in which they gather data and distort the values of certain measurements. They then estimate the values of the measurements taken by other teams and try to detect their errors.